

*Grants Reimburse Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, School District and Parishes*  
October 20, 2009

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has approved reimbursement grants totaling \$89,203,008.64 for hurricane recovery projects in Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Terrebonne Parishes.

**"Our hurricane recovery needs in south Louisiana are great, and these reimbursement grants will help provide financial relief to our communities still working to meet these needs," said Congressman Melancon. "I share their determination to rebuild stronger and better than before. As an advocate for Louisiana, I will continue working to bring federal dollars back to our state to support our important hurricane recovery and protection needs."**

The following federal reimbursement grants were announced today:

#### **St. Bernard Parish**

- **\$70,493,446.33 to St. Bernard Parish for numerous road repair projects.** Storm surge and flooding from Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to local streets. Roads were also damaged due to heavy loads of debris removal equipment. Over 700 individual projects were identified. The grants announced today cover all 33 clean-up zones created in the parish after the disaster, and more accurately reflect the actual repair costs incurred by the parish.

- **\$1,777,275.90 to St. Bernard Parish to restore 7 buildings at Nunez Community College.** Hurricane Katrina and levee breaches caused extensive damages across St. Bernard Parish, including seven buildings at Nunez Community College. This grant reimburses the parish for the cost of cleaning, gutting, and clearing the buildings of mold.

#### **Jefferson Parish**

- **\$1,123,739.92 to Jefferson Parish Public School System for temporary housing for essential employees.** This grant reimburses the school system for the cost of 105 travel trailers and one modular building used after Hurricane Katrina to house essential employees. The grant also covers the cost of closing out the temporary housing initiative after it was no longer needed.

## Plaquemines Parish

- **\$1,119,982.58 to Plaquemines Parish for the Boothville-Venice Fire District No. 5.**

Storm surge and flooding from Hurricane Katrina damaged the Boothville-Venice Fire District's portable fire fighting equipment. The grant announced today will reimburse the parish for replacing fire apparatus, portable fire fighting equipment, and additional equipment, including a commercial mini pumper and two commercial pumpers.

- **\$1,518,845.16 to Plaquemines Parish for temporary housing for health care employees after Katrina.** Storm surge and flooding from Hurricane Katrina extensively damaged buildings in Plaquemines Parish. The Parish provided mobile homes and associated infrastructure for its health care employees, who were displaced by the disaster, so they could continue providing critical services to the parish. This grant reimburses the parish for installing 84 mobile home units for the health care employees, including utility hook-ups, and for removing the units and restoring the site after the post-storm temporary housing need was over.

- **\$2,877,666.52 to Plaquemines Parish to replace the Boothville Community Center.** Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters caused such extensive damage to the community center that the building was not salvageable. This grant reimburses the parish for engineering, architectural, and construction costs to replace the building, and elevate the new structure to advisory base flood elevation. The grant will also cover the cost of combining the community center, District 9 Council Office, and Boothville-Venice Senior Center into one facility.

- **\$5,960,682 to Plaquemines Parish and \$1,998,257.78 to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to repair water system at Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge.** Hurricane Ike's storm surge reached five feet at Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge, causing significant damage to the water system located in the park. This critical system supports the region's vast wetlands, as well as the area's oil, gas and farming industries. This grant reimburses the parish and LDWF for the restoration of the water system back to pre-disaster conditions, which required the dismantling of the current system and installing new culverts, intake structures, flap gates, sluice gates, and other structures.

## Terrebonne Parish

- **\$1,031,990.09 to the Terrebonne Parish Sheriff's Office.** This grant reimburses the

Terrebonne Parish Sheriff Office for emergency protective measures taken before and after Hurricane Gustav. The sheriff's office provided evacuation assistance, search and rescue, debris clearing and security to emergency functions in the parish.

- **\$1,301,122.36 to Terrebonne Parish for road repairs.** Hurricane Ike hit Terrebonne Parish with powerful winds and significant rain that produced flood waters, eroding sections of the roads and road shoulders. The grant reimburses the parish for road repairs.

Congressman Melancon continued, **"Hurricanes Gustav, Ike, Katrina and Rita were all unfortunate financial setbacks for our state, but we have made great progress in the years since the storms. Federal grants like these announced today will take some of the burden off our communities and help our citizens bounce back even faster."**

During the last four years, Congressman Melancon has worked in Congress to reduce the financial burden on citizens and local governments in south Louisiana following major hurricanes. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, he worked to convince Congressional leadership to waive 100 percent of the local cost share requirement for disaster recovery projects in Louisiana.

At the request of Congressman Melancon and the entire Louisiana delegation, the cost share waiver was included in the 2007 Iraq/Katrina Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by the President at the end of May 2007. Before the local cost share was waved, many of the estimated 23,000 disaster recovery projects in Louisiana had been put on hold because local governments did not have the resources to provide the match.

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